



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen Ment  
Public Health Committee Public Hearing  
February 11, 2009**

**House Bill 6361, An Act Concerning The Establishment Of A Sexual  
Assault Forensic Examiners Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to House Bill 6361, *An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program*. While the Judicial Branch has been previously supportive of this concept, our concern today is based on how this new program would be funded and whether the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS) is in a position to establish and administer a new state program.

Although section 5 of the bill calls for an appropriation to the Judicial Branch from the General Fund in the amount of \$275,000, we are aware that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) is also a potential source of funding for this new program. As you may know, the CICF is generated largely by the payment of fines, fees, and forfeitures due to violation of state law and is used to compensate victims of crime for injuries sustained.

Should the CICF be considered as a funding source, please bear in mind that its resources are not infinite, as the amount appropriated by the legislature is currently insufficient to meet the needs of all claimants. Furthermore, the Governor's proposed budget would transfer \$2 million from the fund to the General Fund in FY 10, and \$1 million in FY 11.

Briefly, in regards to section 4, the Judicial Branch supports this change as long as the money currently appropriated to the Division of Criminal Justice to support this program is transferred to the Branch.

In light of the current fiscal uncertainty, the Judicial Branch would respectfully request that, should the Committee act favorably on this bill, it should be sent to the Appropriations Committee for additional study.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.